For the British Medical Association Library.

TO THE MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Report for 1902, as Medical Officer of Health, I may mention that it is based on the statistics for the year, and on the information supplied by the late Dr. E. J. Marmion in the Medical Officer's Report Book for the greater part of the year, and on my own observations since my appointment in November.

POPULATION.

The Population is estimated at 7,200.

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths for the year amounted to 162; of these 103 occurred in Milton and 59 in the Union Workhouse; of the latter 29 were Milton inhabitants. With reference to the total Deaths for the year, there is a marked increase on 1901, but identical with the number for 1900. It may be mentioned, however, that a large proportion of Deaths was from Old Age.

DEATH RATE.

The general Death Rate per 1,000 was 22.5; for the Town alone 14.3; for the Town, including Deaths of Milton Residents in the Workhouse 18.8.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The total of Deaths under 1 year was 33, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 Births registered of 162.

BIRTHS.

The total number of Births registered was 203 (Males 100, Females 103), giving a Birth Rate of 28 per 1,000.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifiable cases of Infectious Diseases was 42, a marked and most satisfactory decrease from the last year and the preceding year, when the totals were 66 and 112 respectively. 29 of this year's cases were removed to the Keycol Hill Hospital, the remaining 13 being treated at home. Of the total, four had a fatal termination.

SCARLET FEVER.

Only six cases were reported. No Deaths resulted.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Eight cases of this Disease occurred—half the number of the previous year. There was no death. With the exception of one, all the patients were treated at Keycol Hill Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

Eleven cases occurred. No Death resulted. Eight of the cases were sent to the Infectious Hospital.

ERYSIPELAS.

Six cases were notified. There was one Death, occurring in a person aged 84.

SMALL POX.

In the early part of the year this disease was imported into a Lodging House in Milton, and altogether 11 cases occurred. Four ended fatally. All the patients were removed at once to the Isolation Hospital ; and there is no doubt that prompt isolation, and complete disinfection of premises, clothing, &c., together with the Vaccination and Re-Vaccination of a large number of the inhabitants, stopped the spread of this terrible disease, which caused such ravages in different parts of England about the same time.

MEASLES.

This disease was given as the cause of four Deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Three Deaths occurred from Whooping Cough, and Parents cannot be too strongly advised against allowing their Children to run about out of doors in contact with others when suffering from this complaint.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

Fourteen Deaths were attributed to Tuberculosis in its various forms.

INFLUENZA.

A fair number of cases of Influenza occurred at the beginning of the year, and four Deaths resulted.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

(*a*) Old Houses.

During the year some of the Old Houses were inspected, and in a few cases were found to be quite unfitted for habitation; others needed considerable repairs, and it is certain that in the near future others of the older dwellings will have to be closed or rebuilt to keep pace with modern health requirements.

(*b*) New Houses.

A fair number of New Houses have been built or are in course of building. Their erection was under the careful supervision of your Surveyor. Care was taken that the height of the living-rooms and bed-rooms should fulfil all modern requirements with regard to sufficient air space and ventilation, and arrangements for the proper flushing and ventilation of all drains is insisted on.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGE.

The Sewage Disposal Works appear to act satisfactorily. Arrangements have been made for the more frequent flushing of the Sewers.

LODGING HOUSES.

The several Lodging Houses have been inspected and found in a satisfactory condition as regards cleanliness and room; but their drainage is for the most part behind modern requirements, and it is to be hoped that this will be remedied as soon as possible.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES, COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, AND BAKEHOUSES.

The Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds, Dairies, and Bakehouses have been visited and inspected, and appeared clean and carefully kept.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Under Section 132 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, I am required to report to you for the first time on the Sanitary condition of the places in the District which come under the provisions of this Act. I am pleased to say that I found nothing to complain of in any of these with regard to cleanliness, air space, ventilation, and provision of suitable and sufficient Sanitary conveniences.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. T. WILLAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

MILTON,
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